

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for screening participant input comments or questions for content in an interactive discussion show, comprising:

for each participant desiring to provide a comment or question to be discussed in the show input:

receiving the participant question or comment input for a show and subsequently disconnecting a communication link with [[a]] the participant before the question or comment is discussed to allow the communication link to be reused by other participants that submitted the participant input;

storing the participant comment or question input in a storage location;
automatically processing the stored participant comment or question input to determine a relationship of the participant comment or question input to the show;

based on the determined relationship, alerting the participant that submitted the participant input if the participant comment or question is input is selected for discussion in the show; and

reconnecting the communication link with the participant to allow the participant to interactively discuss the participant comment or question in the show receive additional input from the participant whose input is selected for the show.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising prior to receiving the participant comment or question input for the show, notifying the

participant of an availability of the show to receive the participant comment or question input.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the show comprises a television show or a radio show.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying an alert preference of the participant.

5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein alerting the participant who that submitted the participant comment or question input includes alerting the participant who that subject matter related to another participant's comment or question input is to be addressed in the show.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically processing the stored participant comment or question input to determine the relationship of the participant comment or question input to the show includes:

using a speech recognition technique to convert an audio format of the participant comment or question input into a text format; and

performing a keyword search on the text format to classify the participant comment or question input relative to the show.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a human operator selects the participant comment or question input for the show.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the participant comment or question input is receivable via a communication medium different from a communication medium usable to alert the participant.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein alerting the participant is capable of being done via one of a telephone call, voicemail, facsimile, email, instant message, screen alert, or page.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the participant comment or question input is capable of being received via one of a telephone call, voicemail, facsimile, email, instant message, transmission from a web page, page, video transmission, avatar transmission, cable modem transmission, interactive video casting transmission, or wireless transmission.

12. (currently amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to
collect participant comment or question input submitted for a show,
wherein a communication link with a participant who ~~that~~ submitted the
participant comment or question input is disconnected subsequent to

submission of the participant comment or question before the comment or question is discussed to allow the communication link to be reused by other participants input;

process the stored participant comment or question input to determine relevance of the participant comment or question input to the show; and

based on a determination of relevance, alert the participant who that submitted the participant comment or question input if the participant comment or question input is selected for discussion in the show; and

reconnecting the communication link with the participant to allow the participant to interactively discuss the participant comment or question in the show.

13. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 12 wherein the machine-readable medium further includes instructions stored thereon to identify an alert preference of the participant.

14. (currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim 12 wherein the instructions to process the stored participant comment or question input to determine the relationship of the participant comment or question input to the show includes instructions to:

apply speech recognition to convert an audio format of the participant comment or question input into a text format; and

perform a keyword search on the text format to classify the participant comment or question input relative to the show.

15. (currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim 12 wherein the instructions to collect the participant comment or question input submitted for the show includes instructions to correlate the participant comment or question input according to predefined criteria.

16. (currently amended) A system for screening participant comment or question input for content in an interactive discussion show, comprising:

a server coupleable to a plurality of terminals to receive participant comment or question input for a show from each of a plurality of participants desiring to provide comment or question input, wherein a communication link with each participant who that submitted the participant comment or question input is disconnected subsequent to reception of the participant comment or question and before discussion thereof to allow the communication link to be reused by other participants input;

a storage unit to store each the participant comment or question input received by the server, the participant comment or question input stored in the storage unit capable of being automatically processed to determine a relationship of the participant comment or question input to the show; and

an alert generator to generate and transmit an alert to a particular participant terminal if, based on the determined relationship, the participant comment or question input received from that participant terminal is selected for discussion in the show;

wherein the server is further to reconnect the communication link to the participant whose comment or question was selected to allow the participant to interactively discuss the selected participant comment or question in the show ~~receive additional input from each participant whose input is selected for the show.~~

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 16, further comprising an interactive video casting network coupleable to provide the show to the participant terminal and to provide the participant comment or question input from the participant terminal to the server.

18. (currently amended) The system of claim 16, further comprising another storage unit having speech recognition software to convert an audio format of the participant comment or question input into a text format, and having keyword search software to search the text format for a keyword to classify the participant comment or question input relative to the show.

19. (currently amended) The system of claim 16, further comprising a monitor coupled to the storage unit to control processing of the participant comment or question input stored in the storage unit and to control operation of the server.

20. (currently amended) The system of claim 16 wherein the server is capable to store the received participant comment or question input information into the storage unit according to predefined criteria.

21. (currently amended) A method for content screening of participant comment or question input in an interactive discussion show, comprising:

establishing communication with a participant to receive a participant comment or question input using a first communication medium;

disconnecting communication with the participant after receiving the participant comment or question and before discussion thereof to allow communication to be established with other participants input;

storing the participant comment or question input in a storage location;

in response to the participant comment or question input being selected for discussion in the show, alerting the participant who that submitted the participant comment or question input using a second communication medium, the second communication medium being different from the first communication medium; and

reestablishing communication with the participant to allow the participant to interactively discuss the participant comment or question in the show receive additional input.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein second communication medium used to deliver the alert comprises an e-mail message.